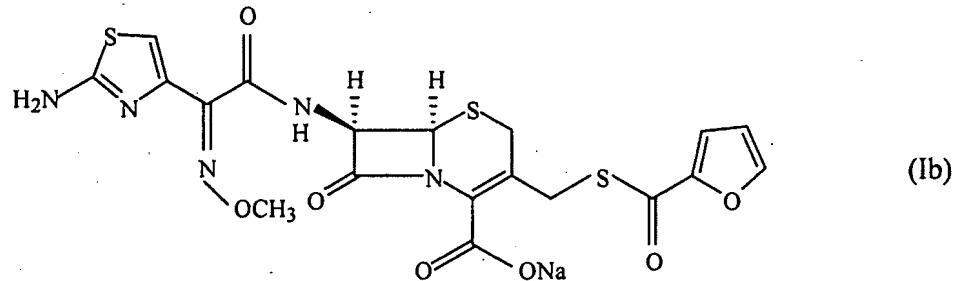


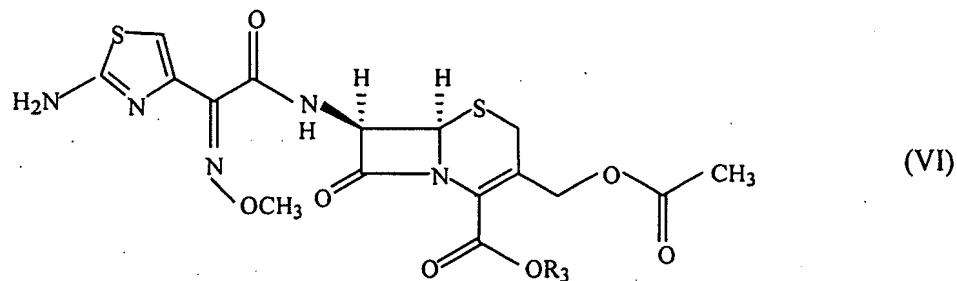
IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Previously Presented) A process for preparation of ceftiofur sodium of formula (Ib) having purity of more than 97% comprising the steps of:



i) reacting cefotaxime or its salts or its esters of formula (VI)



wherein R₃ is hydrogen, an alkali or alkaline earth metal, or an ester hydrolysable under the conditions of step i), with thiofuroic acid, employed in a molar proportion of 1.5 to 3.0 moles per mole of compound (VI), in the presence of acetonitrile as solvent and in the presence of methanesulfonic acid, employed in molar proportions of 12 to 18 moles per mole of compound (VI), and at a temperature of between -5°C to 30°C to give after necessary neutralisation of the alkali or alkaline earth metal or removal of the ester group of the 4-carboxylic acid function, wherever applicable, ceftiofur of formula (Ia), having purity of more than 97%;